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MEMOIR

U. A. LUZENBERG, M. D.,

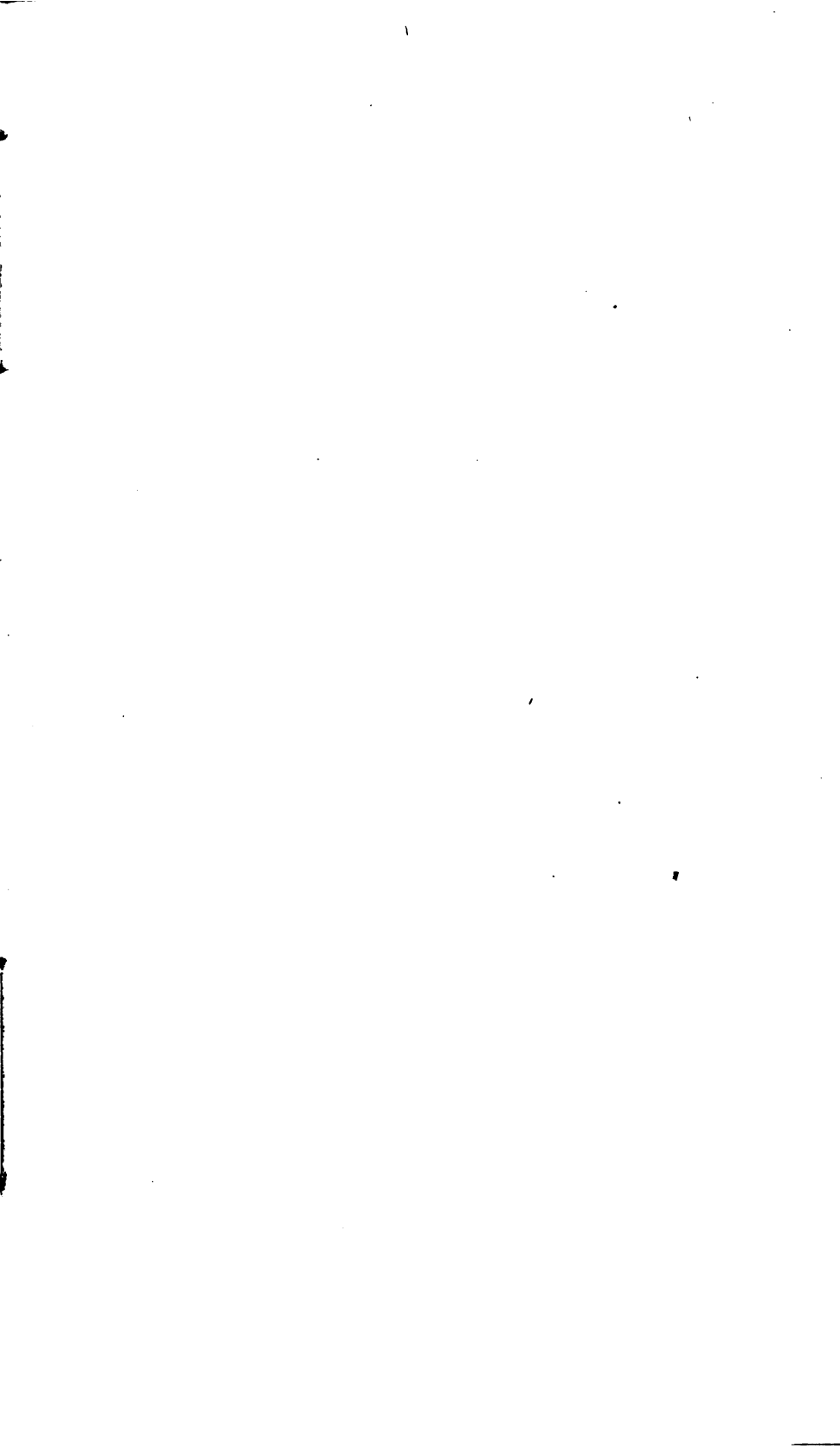
President of the Louisiana Medical-Surgical Society

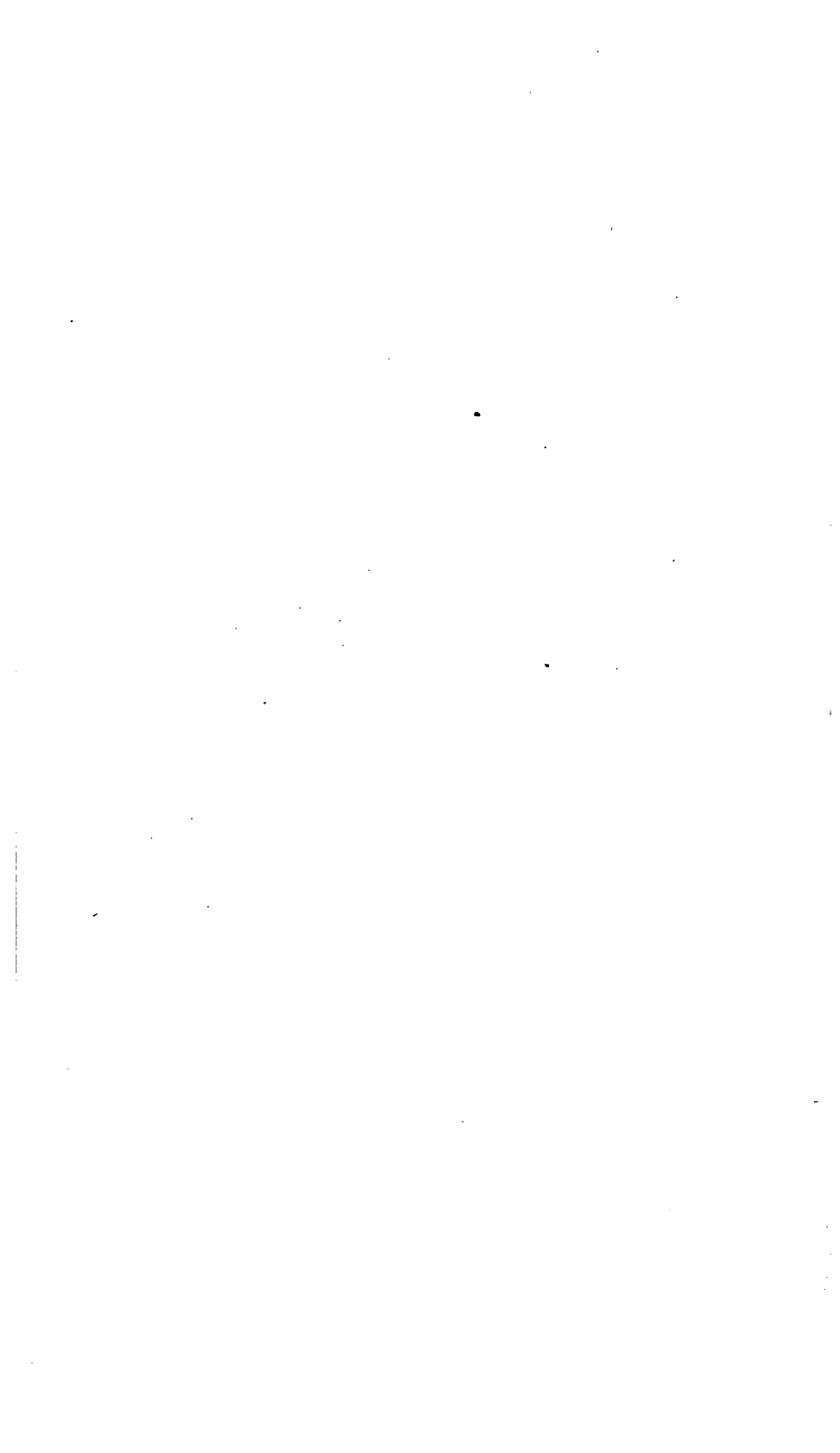
BY THOMAS M. LORAN, M. D.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

NEW ORLEANS

PRINTED BY J. P. STEEL, 61-63 LAUREL STREET



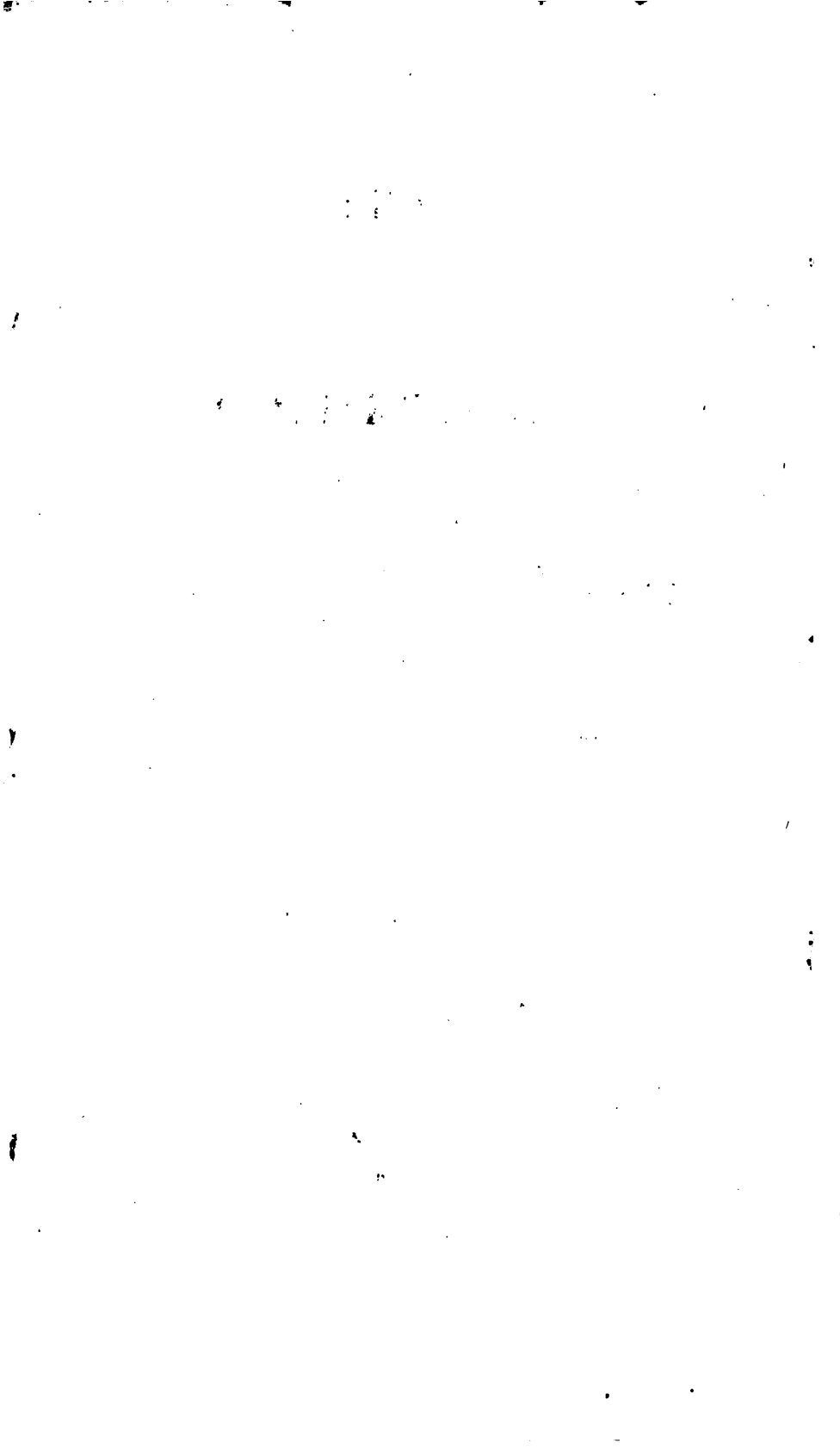




CHARLES AUGUSTUS HITZINGER.

From Garbelle's Bust.

Engr'd from a Bust by Garbelle & Collins, Orleans.





CARLOTTA ALOISIA MOZZENBERA.

From Goethe's Faust.

Engraved by Thomas & William Agnew.

MEMOIR

OF

C. A. LUZENBERG, M. D.,

President of the Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society.

BY THOMAS M. LOGAN, M. D.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

NEW-ORLEANS:

PRINTED BY J. B. STEEL, No. 14 CAMP STREET.

1849.

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1869, Sept. 28.
Gift of Rev. Wm. S. Perry.
(H. E. 1854.)
ADDENDA.

At a special meeting of the Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society, convened 28th January, 1849, for the purpose of receiving the Memoir of its late President, Dr. C. A. LUZENBERG, published by its authority, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to Dr. Thos. M. Logan, for the able and independent manner in which he has carried out our designs and wishes in his Memoir of our late President, and that we embrace the opportunity of instructing our Vice-President to present to him a silver goblet, with a suitable inscription, in testimony of our appreciation of his high moral and professional worth, as well as for the faithful discharge of his duties as our Treasurer during the last four years.

Resolved, That the balance of money remaining in the Treasury, after the payment of all the incidental expenses of the Society, be handed over by our Vice-President to " La Société Française de Bienfaisance et d'assistance mutuelle."

Resolved, That these resolutions be published and appended to the Memoir of our President, and that the Society now adjourn *sine die*.

(Signed)
A. MERCIER,
Secretary.

J. F. BEUGNOT,
Vice President.

LOUISIANA MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

At a special meeting, convened on the 28th July, 1848, for the purpose of rendering the last honors to the remains of its lamented President, Dr. C. A. LUZENBERG, just arrived from Cincinnati, the following preamble and resolutions, offered by Dr. A. Mercier, were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Divine Providence to relieve from his sufferings, and remove from an extensive sphere of usefulness, in the midst of his years and with "his honors thick upon him," our esteemed and valued President; and, whereas, this awful calamity carries grief throughout the whole country, and has plunged us into profound sorrow, it well becomes us to give expression to the feelings with which we are solemnly impressed, and to unite as a Society, widowed and bereaved, to do all in our power to honor his manes, and to cherish his memory. Therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members of the Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society, in now performing an act enjoined by the voice of custom and of reason, find much consolation, while deploring the loss of our lamented President, in our grateful aspirations of praise to departed usefulness.

Resolved, That impartially appreciating his professional and scientific attainments—his manly, noble and aspiring enterprise—his matured experience, and bold, yet prudent wisdom

—his high and undeviating principles of honor and integrity in all the various relations of an active and useful life—his untiring charities and unbounded generosity—we regard his decease as a calamity to our Society, of which he was the presiding genius—to the whole profession, of which he was the ornament—and to the community at large, of which he was a minister of health and happiness.

Resolved, That as a chasm has been produced by the descent, into the tomb, of talents and virtues of high practical import, and nothing is now left us who survive, but to commemorate the deeds, gather up the maxims and profit by the example of so much worth, we hereby nominate our colleague, Dr. Thos. M. Logan, to prepare for publication by the Society, such a memoir of our departed President, as in his judgment, and at his convenience, he may think fit to write.

Resolved, That this Society, uniting with his afflicted relict, family and relatives, in the severe bereavement they are called on to sustain, and with feelings sensibly deepened by the affinities which are now broken, and hallowed by the sympathies which are awakened, condole with them in this trying occasion, and request our Vice-President to transmit a published copy of these proceedings to the different members of Dr. LUZENBERG's family, with such other expressions of our regard as he may think fit to add.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published, and that, as a public manifestation of our deep affliction and respect for the memory of our departed President, the members of this Society wear crape on the left arm for the space of sixty days.

[signed and sealed.]

J. F. BEUGNOT,
Vice-President.

MEMOIR.

CHARLES ALOYSIUS LUZENBERG was no ordinary man; and well may the Society, of which he was the head and the ornament, "do all in their power to honor his manes, and to cherish his memory." Cut off in the full vigor of his faculties, and in the highest state of his career of usefulness, the heart is saddened by the sudden overthrow of all those sanguine expectations which hovered over the future brilliancy to which his life was rapidly culminating. A hero in his profession, he achieved the most daring feats in surgery, and with scalpel in hand, fought his way to fame and fortune. The pride of his Society, he brought to it all that abundant knowledge, and those profound processes of thought, which the labor of years, directed by genius, enabled him on every emergency, to call up, as if by magic, from his rich treasury of memory. An honor to the State, he adorned his mind with the beautiful and true in ancient and modern classics—invigorated his reasoning powers in the schools of law and logic, and combined the learning of the philosopher with the fancy of the poet and the taste of the artist.

The memory of such transcendent abilities and attainments has now become a part of our profes-

sional inheritance ; and I have been called upon to record upon the pages of our archives, the appreciation of their worth and influence—that they may serve to animate us amidst the trials and toils—the darkness, embarrassments, and contradictions of life, and be transmitted to our successors as a rich legacy—an example of what man may be—a fixed and shining light to direct the pure and undying aspirations of the disciples of a heaven-descended profession. Such, I apprehend, were the legitimate objects which the Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society had in view when appointing me to prepare this memorial. It is not to waste idle panegyric on the dead, nor to gratify the fond vanity of surviving relatives and friends:—it is not to exalt or blazon forth a name, that I fulfil their wishes! No. It is not for such man-worship, nor hero-worship as this. Unmeasured as is the ground covered by the resolutions, I have thus long waited for the gushing sensibilities of human nature to be stilled, that sober judgment and just discrimination may exercise a becoming constraint over former prepossessions.

Were I writing of any other than the subject of this memoir, some apology would be due for noticing first in order, those traits of character which made his life a martyrdom. Abused, calumniated, misrepresented as it was his fate to be, through many a painful year of his existence, he signally exhibited on every occasion, that characteristic of true greatness of mind, an enduring patience, with the most vehement detestation of falsehood, and pity for his persecutors. Conscious of the purity

of his motives, and of the worthiness of the ends he aimed at, like a fearless apostle of truth, he united in himself a recklessness of wounding the *amour propre* of others on speculative points, however it might expose him to the shafts of calumny and hatred, with the most respectful consideration and deference for antagonistic views, when he became convinced of their philosophical conception and logical deduction. And this it was that constituted his real greatness—he had the heroic bravery to do what he thought to be his duty, in spite of all opposition, and fearlessly to abide the consequences.

Need I, in this enlightened age, draw the comparison, to elucidate my subject, between animal and moral courage, or bring examples from remotest antiquity to prove wherein consists the true dignity of man? If the mere exertion of physical force—the brutal exercise of human prowess in the destruction of life with the least possible self-risk, constitute the true courage and greatness of man, then let me ask, what tribe of savage Indians, what horde of wandering Tartars would not turn to mockery the honors and triumphs, which a grateful nation has been so recently according to the Conquerors of a peace in Mexico? Not but that the common attribute of courage is worthy of all honor, and justly commands the admiration of the world; yet how far above it ranks that sublimer attribute, which, self-sustained and supported by no power save a consciousness of its own honorable purposes, can pursue the path of wisdom and of rectitude, in defiance of all the demons of malice,

envy and calumny; nay, in defiance of what is infinitely harder to be endured, the falsely awakened suspicions and distrust of that community in which its sphere of action lies.

What, let me ask again, were the victories of Republican Greece, in comparison with Turkish, Vandal, or Gothic conquests? Was it Miltiades, or Themistocles, or Leonidas, who perpetuated the name of Athens? or was it not rather that noble line of self-sacrificing and self-denying sages, the Solons, the Platos, the Socrates and Aristotles, who, unmindful of local or temporary feelings, procured for their country institutions necessary for the intellectual advancement of her citizens, and attracted to her schools and academic groves, the brilliant galaxy of names which will shine forever in the empyrean of letters.

In how eminent a degree did he, whom this memoir is to commemorate, and whose name is identified with the progress of medical science in this city, ever drawing wisdom from his knowledge of antiquity, labor, in his orbit, to secure those acquisitions and ameliorations far more important than foreign conquests or military triumph; without which, indeed, neither conquest nor triumph would be of any value. How did he, with true patriotism, seek to make his country the land of science and of letters, as well as of courtesy and honor—the “home of the arts” as it is of liberty and independence—and this too amidst the rancorous rivalries of self-love and of interest, which embitter the spirit and darken the character of our clime, let the history of his life attest. Over this life, so brilliant, yet so

unhappy, I have, in the quietude of my study, spent many an hour of solemn meditation, while my spirit mourned within me, in alternate throes of sorrow and indignation—sorrow for his sufferings—indignation at his wrongs. I have not been unmindful of the inevitable faults of his humanity—his frailties and his errors—those “soiled steps to the Grecian Temple of our perfection;” but I have weighed them with his sterling qualities—his largeness of heart, his active benevolence, and the former, as the lighter scale, have kicked the beam. What of temerity there was in his earnest struggles for all that appeared to him right and proper, and in his heroic acting up to his opinions, is so qualified by a constant sympathy with the distresses and trials of others; so untiring a devotion to new studies and new efforts for the amelioration of man’s sufferings, pervades all his conduct, that he stands out in bold relief as one of the most prominent medical philanthropists of the age. In his striking lineaments I have recalled the tempered calmness and self-possession which presided over all his actions. I have followed him in his independent career, acting out his seminal maxims of all greatness. I have seen him in his passive fortitude, triumphing over his persecutors, and have risen from the contemplation of the high mission he has fulfilled with a warmer admiration of his essential magnanimity and a profounder conviction of “the rottenness of this our moral Denmark.”

But a very mistaken notion will be formed, if it be concluded from the above, that he was of a phlegmatic temperament, or that these praise-

worthy attributes were a natural or fortuitous result. His intrinsic merit consists in the fact that these cardinal virtues were acquired from reflection and experience, wrought out into a system from intense thought and much spiritual wrestling, as what of great and good on earth is not made "perfect through suffering," and reduced to practice by a firmness which could not be turned aside from a purpose deliberately formed. His quick, abrupt, almost military movements bespoke his fiery, Italian nature. His large grey eye, beneath its deep, German, musing thoughtfulness, showed flashes of a Promethean fire, which no drilling of the spirit could entirely smother; while his compressed under lip was the index of what may be called an American energy, that never relaxed. Though constitutionally irritable, he had so subdued his temper that he became exemplary for his social and domestic qualities. His hours of relaxation were chiefly spent in the society of his devoted family and a few congenial friends; but beneath the never shaken calmness which reigned in perfect masterdom, the under surface searcher might have seen that the possessor struggled against the dominion of strong passions, and, while pitying and contemning, writhed under the memory of his wrongs. The severe moral discipline, to which he subjected himself, ultimately told upon his iron constitution. That organ, the source of all nobleness, as it is the fountain of all life, which, from intense and long continued excitement, was overtaken in its physiological functions by the accumulating heated blood, dilated and enlarged, until the safety-valve, on which devolved the

onus of the struggle, became vitiated in structure, and gradually petrified. Thus the vital powers were oppressed with agony, and the choked heart ceased at last to beat.

“Fermossi al fin il cor che balzo tanto.”

With this insight into the character of the man, I will proceed to take a brief review of his early history, and concisely follow him through all the changes and chances of this mortal life, *fidelis ad urnam*. And if the intimate and confidential relations which have subsisted between us, since I migrated to this city about five years ago, and especially during the last twelve months of his life, while I was associated with him in his hospital, at all qualify me for the task, I trust I may not be in fault while performing this last sad duty which has been assigned me.

Dr. LUZENBERG was born at the city of Verona, in Italy, on the 31st July, 1805; where, and when, his father, an Austrian of ancient and respectable family, had followed the army in the capacity of commissary. Soon after the birth of this his first born son, his father returned with the army to Alsace, an old province on the frontiers of France, now forming the departments of the upper and lower Rhine—residing with his family alternately at Landau and Weissemburg. At the latter place, one of his uncles was established as a respectable practitioner of medicine; which circumstance, perhaps, gave his father the idea of educating him for that profession.

His earliest tuition was at the Public School of Landau, where his precocity first evinced itself in

the rapidity with which he learned Arithmetic and the French and Latin languages. Afterward, when his father moved to Weissemberg, he was received into the City College, at the early age of ten years, being the youngest pupil ever admitted. On account of his attainments, the rules for admission were waived in his favor, and he was held up as a model to the other scholars.

In the German colleges, the Preceptors themselves imbibe a principle of emulation from an interest they feel in attaining a superiority over each other in the advancement of their pupils. Here education begins, where in most nations it ends, and the study of the languages forms the basis of instruction, because it is thought more favorable to the progress of the faculties in childhood, than that of the mathematics, or of the physical sciences. Pascal, that great geometrician, whose profound reflection spread its wings over all literature, asserts the superiority of minds at first formed by the languages. He argues, that the sense of an expression in a foreign language, is at once a grammatical and an intellectual problem—awakening numerous faculties and rousing up the imagination, while the mathematics exercise only the mechanism of the understanding, without imparting information necessary to prevent the individual life being confined to the circle of one nation—a circle narrow, like every thing which is exclusive.

The force of such reasoning, is remarkably shown in the life we are now reviewing. The eager industry with which young LUZENBERG threw

himself upon his classical studies, gave him at once a lead, and we find him at one year's expiration of his academic course, winning the first leaf of that public chaplet, which has been ever since gathering new and verdant honors. The next year he was rewarded with the second premium for additional acquirements in the mathematics, consisting of two wreaths of choice flowers on each arm. In accordance with the military spirit which then obtained, "he was dressed as an officer,"—I quote from a letter of one of his relatives—"and returned home as proud as a conqueror from the field of battle." The third year, he was upon the list for the first premium for further acquirements, when misfortunes of a heavy and calamitous nature, reduced his father's family from affluence and rank, to comparative poverty, and compelled them to emigrate before the distribution of the prizes. Previously, however, to sailing, the Mayor of the city, personally a stranger to his father, accidentally met him in the streets, and taking off his hat, said: "Sir, I must uncover my head before the man who owns such a son."

In the year 1819, when the tide of emigration set strongly towards this land of promise, his father left his native country, and settled with his family in Philadelphia.

The eye of parental pride had thus been attracted to the vigorous shoots of promise, put forth in those nurseries of talent—the colleges of his native land—and his father spared no expense, indeed, sacrificed all his means to procure for his eldest son, every facility his adopted city could

afford, for the completion of his studies. True to the German standard of a perfect education, he was taught the art of fencing, boxing, and other exercises in gymnastics, and soon acquired the same proficiency in the *athletæ*, which he afterwards attained in the medical arena.

Under the same genial influences of the "father land," his talent for music was cultivated to a high degree. He learned to execute on the flute, violin, and violincello, with a finish of instrumentation, rarely attained by the "*homo multarum literarum*;" and to this faculty he continued to resort for relaxation on many an evening of his weary pilgrimage. Alas! little did I think, when last I heard the liquid notes of his favorite glass flute, in accompaniment with the piano of his accomplished daughter, that this pure and cherished source of refined enjoyment was so soon to be denied me. "So it ever is! So does fate," in the mystic language of his own admired Richter, "set fire to the theatre of our little plays, and our bright-painted curtain of futurity! So does the serpent of eternity wind around us and our joys, and crush, like the royal snake, what it does not poison!"

On such an auspicious foundation he proceeded to erect the superstructure of his medical studies, and commenced, in 1825, attending the lectures of the Jefferson Medical College. Here he evinced such assiduity and zeal in the acquisition of knowledge, especially in the dissecting rooms, as to furnish, even at that early period, strong indications of his future eminence. Although he made the study of his profession the base line of his pur-

suits, he did not neglect to prosecute the departments of classical literature, and especially natural history; which latter he made subsidiary to comparative anatomy, and in this he engaged *con amore*.

At this period, Dr. Physick was in the zenith of his surgical career, and it is presumable, gave a bias to the mind of his hospital pupil for his particular department. Hence, surgery became his ruling passion, and he spared no trouble or pains, by constant attendance at the Alms House, or by going almost any distance to witness an important or interesting operation.

The improvement of surgery upon scientific principles, was now making rapid progress, and no longer regarded as a barber, or mechanical operator, whose business laid in his hands and fingers; the surgeon was called upon to employ all the therapeutic means which the whole scope of medical science placed within his reach, and which constitute the foundation of sound surgical practice at the present day.

Partaking of the spirit of the age, and impressed with the belief that the hitherto slow progress of surgery as a science, was owing to the want of accurate knowledge of the real nature of morbid actions, in connection with the laws of vitality and its operations for their cure, our young surgeon commenced by investigating the more common instances of disease, by which a larger field of observation, and a wider latitude for tracing the bearing of facts upon each other, were obtained, than the circumscribed study of rare cases affords. Through his knowledge of analytical anatomy, he advanced

by a profounder knowledge of physiology; to the discovery that there was nothing in the human body truly *external*, and consequently, that lesions, apparently on the surface, could not be treated as such, in the rigorous meaning of the word. From the well known logical constitution of his mind, taken in connection with what I have often heard him say, it is inferrible that by this manner of reasoning, he was enabled to perceive how it was only through the most thorough comprehension of the natural processes that those præternatural aberrations, which constitute disease, could be fathomed, and nature be thus aided in such actions of recuperation, adhesion, suppuration and granulation, as she sets up through the functions of nutrition, absorption, &c. Adopting thus the doctrines then so predominant, as he did the example of John Hunter, and without relying upon books, or the testimony of others, he appealed directly to nature herself. In his dissections and pathological investigations, he was unremitting; tracing up the phenomena of life, in health and disease, through the whole range of organized beings. Believing in the strong analogy between the disorders of brutes and the human subject, and with the scientific enthusiasm of a Cuvier, he never missed an opportunity for dissecting any animal that came within his reach, or, if apparently sick, for observing the symptoms and afterward killing it, either to confirm or correct his diagnosis. Following thus strictly the inductive method laid down by the great father of modern philosophy, he arrived at the positive knowledge of facts, which

gave him confidence in his conclusions, and endued him with that independence of mind, which finally made him one of the masters of his art.

It is not surprising that the possessor of a capacious mind like this, after drinking deep of the sources of all learning, made with a fixed purpose tributary to one profession, should, after having been graduated with much honor in compliment to his philosophical thesis on scrofula, with an eye single upon the medical horoscope, direct his course to that city of sickness and of pestilence, whither the propitious aspect most determinated. Accordingly we find him, in 1829, taking the initiative as house-surgeon of the Charity Hospital of this city; to which office he was elected in compliment to his having adroitly amputated a thumb, on his first visit to the institution, at the invitation of the late Dr. David C. Ker, one of the visiting physicians, to whom he presented one, and only one of the many flattering letters of introduction with which he was provided, and from whom he received much polite attention and kindness.

In this situation his talents found a field somewhat commensurate with their extent, and which soon brought him a rich harvest of celebrity and reputation.

The abundant opportunities here afforded, of witnessing every variety of calamity and casualty to which suffering humanity is subject, and the many emergencies, which tasked his judgment, boldness and address, soon enabled him to acquire those qualities, which are found in all great surgeons. A sure and steady hand—an imperturbable

self-possession, and a quick sagacity to seize new indications and employ at the instant the means of fulfilling them—these were only some of the evidences of his genius for surgery, which were now developed. To his achievements in operating, I shall hereinafter recur; at present let us follow him in the order of his life, for it was in combatting that dreadful scourge of our city, yellow fever, that he primarily put forth all the energies of his mind, and evoked all the resources of his reason. He first grappled with the hydra in his own person, before essaying his skill in delivering others—an *experimentum crucis*, which proved the sincerity of his opinions, and tested the validity of his practice.

When Dr. LUZENBERG arrived in New Orleans, such an operation as cupping was seldom heard of, and still less frequently resorted to in the treatment of fevers; for he has frequently been heard to say, that when he was taken sick, a few days after his arrival, with yellow fever, there was not a set of cupping instruments to be found in the city, and wine glasses were substituted by himself, in his own case, (for he treated himself,) after making scarifications with the point of an ordinary lancet.

At this epoch in the medical history of our city, yellow fever was regarded as a thrice more formidable disease, than it now is, and with much reason; for as well as can be ascertained, at least twenty per cent. of the attacked fell victims to its influence. Regarding this disease under a very different point of view from the routine of practitioners, who, of the American and English school, saw nothing but morbid secretions, which must either be purged

away, or eliminated from the system by calomel; or, of the French School, who tacitly confessed their blindness by temporizing with ptisans and lavements; and impelled to other methods of treatment, revealed by organic medicine, Dr. LUZENBERG struck out a new system in his own case, which has revolutionized the whole practice and produced benefits never to be forgotten.

Reasoning *a priori* upon the tissues and organs concerned in a disease characterized by a general super-excitation, and knowing the tendency to rapid localization in the digestive tube, he foresaw that unless this event was anticipated, and the consequent inflammation of those passages prevented, a preternaturally larger quantity of blood would be accumulated there in an active manner, ultimately to make its escape either through the mucous surfaces or through the openings which may result from the rupture of some of the capillary vessels. Instead therefore of resorting to calomel or purgatives, which only serve to add to the irritation already lit up in the stomach and duodenum, for, when they relieve, it is by exciting the secretory action of the intestinal mucous surfaces at eminent risk, he proceeded to disembarass the nervous centres of that excess of blood concentrated upon them by the morbid cause, and thus arrested the morbid catenation, if he did not cut short the disease at once. This he did by means of general or local bleeding, according to the circumstances of the case, with the courage and determination of a mind certain of being in the right, and with the view, as Galen

directs, *jugulare febrim*, to destroy the fever at a blow; hence his practice has been styled *par excellence* "the abortive."

It is not pretended that syncopal bleeding had never been resorted to previously by Rush, as well as other respectable practitioners in the treatment of yellow fever; but none had pointed out with precision the rules for its application, because the materials whereon they based their indications, were defective—their pathological knowledge did not bear them out in any positive conclusions.

Better informed and relying upon his knowledge of the actual phenomena of a disease, believed to be *sthenic*, he saw that the reason why blood-letting, so imperiously called for, had so often failed in the hands of the practitioner as to fall into disuse, was for want of sound philosophical views and practical sagacity: he showed, with axiomatic accuracy, that it was the remedy, potent for good or for evil, according to the principles which regulated its employment, and requiring infinite tact on the part of the practitioner.

With his finger then upon the pulse, he proceeded to make a large orifice in one of the veins of the arm, while the patient was seated upright in bed. After the flowing of from xvi to xxx ounces of blood, more or less, the color on the cheek creeps in, the unnatural brilliancy of the eyes vanishes, the cephalalgia, lumbar and crural pains are dissipated, the pulse, from beating 100 to 120, falls in force and frequency to its normal type, the patient yawns, faints or vomits, and a free copious perspiration bursts forth from every pore. In a word, the

fever is vanquished, sometimes never to return, and when it does, the same process, *coup sur coup*, is to be repeated under certain modifications.

This is the plan to be adhered to in ordinary cases of the phlegmonous and inflammatory forms—the quantity of blood to be drawn being regulated by the effects: until these are produced the bleeding must be continued. In the severe congestive forms the case is very different; spoliative bleedings augment the fatal symptoms. There reaction is to be first established by the aid of cupping and rubefacients, and afterward resort is to be had to bleeding as in ordinary phlegmonous cases.

These are the first and main principles of this method. If any treatment of disease can be more philosophical or more strongly sustained by scientific induction in the present state of our knowledge, I am very sure none is more successful for yellow fever, in the hands of an experienced and judicious practitioner. Of course there are shades and variations in the type of this as of all other fevers, and the method of treatment must be regulated accordingly. Of late years the number of benign cases far exceeds the truly grave, and I have known many of the former promptly cured by Dr. LUZENBERG without direct depletion and by the chief agency of copious spoliative perspiration produced by hot pediluvia and warm covering, with other adjuvants. In all cases he prescribed some of the antacids to neutralize the morbid secretions of the stomach, and generally gave the preference to the phosphate of lime, in the form of Sydenham's white decoction. Again, I have frequently seen after a syncope, pro-

duced by a venesection of only twelve ounces in cases looking very serious at first, a free salutary perspiration break out, and all the unfavorable symptoms disappear as by enchantment. Thirdly, I have seen after the artificial remission produced by a copious venesection, all the morbid phenomena re-appear with more or less intensity. In such a case, if judgment, tact and skill are exercised in the mode of depletion, another remission may soon be obtained; the pulse being relied on to regulate the bleeding. If the pulse be now small and the artery appear empty, local bleedings are to be preferred, and these are to be applied to those points where we know the blood is concentrated, and the blood is to be solicited to flow by warm poultices, &c., until the pulse falls, and the second train of bad symptoms are subdued. If after this the amendment of the symptoms does not remain permanent, the bleeding must again be renewed, by cupping, if much blood has been already lost, until the fever is entirely subdued.

I do not deem it expedient to enter here into a more minute consideration of this method of treatment first proposed and advocated, both by argument and example, by Dr. LUZENBERG, who continued to employ it with consummate skill since 1829; developing at each return of the epidemic its subtle rules with more and more precision, until he brought it to a state approximating perfection. And especially am I less disposed to swell the pages of this memoir by elaborating a subject, which has already been treated in so masterly a manner by my confrère, Dr. J. F. Beugnot, in his valuable paper,

read before the Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1843; and afterwards translated and published in 1844, as the leading article of the 1st No. of the New Orleans Medical Journal. All that I now aim to accomplish is to record the method detailed above only in a degree sufficient to give some idea of its compass, as one of the most important circumstances in the life of its discoverer and forming a remarkable event in the medical history of our city.

From the period that Dr. LUZENBERG proclaimed his views respecting the treatment of yellow fever, and he did this openly and fearlessly, because, he would not give his countenance to legalized murder, as he styled the mal-practice of the day, he excited the envy and jealousy of many of his contemporaries, which continued unabated, nay, gathering strength numerically to the day of his decease.

Not satisfied with denouncing his method as dangerous and sanguinary, his competitors merged the spirit of controversy into personal opposition, and tried by covert means to prejudice the community against him, whom they attempted to ridicule as a *parvenu* and dangerous innovator.

Here then was the beginning of that bitter state of medical polemics in this city, which was destined through after years to pour its accumulated venom upon the head of the bold reformer.

It will not be denied that on this as well as on late occasions, Dr. LUZENBERG spoke out rather harshly, and with the lion-voice of a Luther, gave utterance to his full heart in the startling language

of earnestness and sincerity; but it was because he was proclaiming severe verities. He would not compromise the life of his fellow-creatures. And is this a reason that his character should have been afterwards assailed—that his medical disputants should finally become his detractors, and, finding him too strong for them in the controversial gymnasium, they should seek to rob him of that, which, if they had succeeded, would neither have enhanced their standing, but left him poor indeed, and thus raise a hue and cry to drive him out of the city? Fain would I have drawn the curtain over the ungracious scenes of that malicious drama which mirrors forth past professional obliquities. But I am writing of the life of one who exerted an influence which it is important to register, and as a part of his history I am compelled to speak the truth on this as well as on all subjects, which I trust to do with moderation. I can scarcely hope to escape wounding the awakened susceptibility of some, although I shall carefully avoid anything like personal recrimination, as derogatory to the dignity of the grave subject in which I am engaged.

Firm and regardless of the barking and back-biting of those, who, standing still themselves, would have others do so likewise, Dr. LUZENBERG continued to press forward in every department of practical medicine with the same zeal, industry and success, which had distinguished him while a pupil.

Ambitious of making himself a thorough anatomist, prospectively to his favorite scheme for establishing a Medical College, we find him the following winter lecturing to a class of students, attracted to

the Hospital by his budding fame. To these he gave private demonstrations, chemical lectures, and other aid in the acquisition of their profession.

About this time his attention was attracted to the numerous cases of small pox, which were received into the Charity Hospital. While engaged in the *post mortem* examination of a patient who had been some years previously so afflicted with small pox as to produce deep pits upon the face, Dr. LUZENBERG was surprised to find that those parts of the body, which had been protected in a great degree from the action of light by clothing, were entirely unmarked. Putting this in connection with the fact recorded by Baron Larrey, with which doubtless he was acquainted, as he read a great deal, viz: that the Egyptians and Arabians are accustomed to cover the exposed parts of small pox patients with gold leaf, the idea was impressed upon his mind that light was the agent of this phenomenon. Acting upon this impression, he placed a number of patients in an apartment so constructed, that the reflective rays of the sun, even at its meridian, could not penetrate within. The result confirmed his opinion, and fully established the position, that the exclusion of light prevents pitting; for all who were discharged cured, exhibited neither pit nor mark upon the face or body, and even such as had the disease in its worst confluent form, passed rapidly and without any difficulty through the maturative and desiccating stages, and recovered with comparatively none of those marks and disgusting discolorations which so signally disfigure the subjects of this most loathsome disorder. Thus

satisfied of the correctness of his conclusion, he communicated the fact in *scientific good faith* to the class of young men around him, requesting them to prosecute the subject, with the view of further testing its reliability. One of them made it the subject of a paper, which will be found in the 10th vol. p. 119, of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," for 1842, and thus attracted the attention of European physicians to the subject, as may be seen in the *Revue Médicale*, for August, 1832. Much acrimonious disputation transpired as to who was the actual discoverer of this method; at which we need not be surprised, when we remember the old adage, that "there is nothing new under the sun." Our own Physick was almost shorn of the eclat of one of his most important surgical discoveries by Dupuytren and Schmalkalden, and, like him, if Dr. LUZENBERG did not first bring into notice the practice of excluding the light in treating variolous disorders, he at all events revived it, and finally got as much credit for it as he deserved; for I well remember when I arrived in Paris, in 1832, that he was pointed out to me at one of the Hospitals, by a French student, as an eminent American physician, who had discovered a new mode of treating small pox. About the same time also, I received a letter from a medical relative in this State, advising me to make the acquaintance of Dr. LUZENBERG, if I intended to visit this city, as he was a physician of high standing, and had distinguished himself recently by the discovery, that the exclusion of light, without obstructing the free circulation of air, during the treatment of small pox,

prevented its pitting. I had no intention at that time of settling in New Orleans, nor did I remove here until eleven years afterwards, yet I nevertheless cultivated the acquaintance of one who did honor to the professional character of my country abroad, and I have ever since rejoiced that I did so.

Society is so constituted in New Orleans, and the different classes mix and interchange opinions so freely with each other, that Dr. LUZENBERG's reputation soon spread beyond the walls of the Charity Hospital, and a better field was opened for him in private practice, which furnished additional scope for the exertion of all his powers, as well as for the gratification of his highest ambition. In the course of his professional visits, it was his good fortune to form a favorable acquaintance with Mrs. Mary Ford, daughter of the late Henry Clement of New York, and to whom he was married in March, 1832. This event contributed equally to his introduction to the best of society and to his professional advancement. By the ample fortune which was at once with the most exemplary confidence placed at his disposal, he was raised to a height whence he could look down with pity upon the rivalries and jealousies of the profession, and in the seclusion of a well-stocked library, and all the appliances for study with which he now supplied himself, shut his ears against the hubbub of his assailants.

More eager now for the acquisition of knowledge than the accumulation of riches, he did not fall into the fatal error of supposing that the distinction he had already acquired entitled him to repose

or indolence. He had learned enough—the most important learning, to be conscious of his comparative ignorance, and looking abroad from this new eminence to which he had urged his way, he felt the overpowering conviction that what he had already gained bore but a ratio, eternally decreasing, to what was still contained within the ever expanding horizon of knowledge. Thus did he determine to avail himself of his acquirements in the languages, and collect materials in Europe to erect the superstructure, for which he conceived he had but as yet laid the foundation.

To show the real estimation in which he was held at this time, I deem it proper to insert here a letter in reply to his resignation as House Surgeon of the Charity Hospital—

CHARITY HOSPITAL, N. O., April 3, 1832.

DR. C. A. LUZENBERG—

Sir—Annexed I have the pleasure of handing you an extract from the Minutes of the Institution.

The Council of Administration in accepting the resignation of Dr. LUZENBERG, from a consideration of his laborious and arduous services in this Institution, and the faithful and satisfactory manner in which he has discharged all the duties appertaining to his office, consider it justly due to him to express their unqualified approbation of his conduct and deportment, and deeply regret that circumstances should render it expedient for him to offer his resignation.

Resolved, Moreover, that a certified copy of this resolution be communicated to Dr. LUZENBERG by the Secretary of the Administration.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the minutes.

(Signed.) SAM'L F. RELF, Sec'y.

On the 2d May, 1832, Dr. LUZENBERG left New Orleans, accompanied by his family, for the purpose of making the tour of Europe. He went by way

of the west with a view of first acquainting himself with the features of his own country, and sailed from New York on the 1st July following for Liverpool. Making excursions through England, Scotland and Ireland, and taking note of every thing remarkable in these interesting countries, especially in the line of his profession, he next passed over into France, and spent the ensuing winter in Paris. Here he luxuriated in hospitals, schools of medicine, natural history and the arts, and with a kind of peripatetic study, enriched his mind with all the valuable discoveries in science and art, for which the capital of France is so famous.

Partaking of the same industry which is manifested by the medical, scientific and literary men at Paris, and which is wholly unknown in this country, he was with the professors and students before daylight in the morning, with taper in hand, pressing through the crowd at the bedside of the sick and diseased, or assisting at the matinal clinique of some illustrious professor. Hurrying from one hospital to another, he might be found at a more advanced hour of the day on the benches of the "École de Médecine," or at some other of the numerous colleges, academies, or gardens of natural history, hearing, seeing, feeling, and comparing all the multiplied and varied sources of spreading knowledge. The day was not long enough; the same enthusiasm carried him by night to the dissecting rooms and operating courses, hardly leaving him time to eat, drink or sleep.

Thus, to my knowledge, he passed the whole

winter in Paris, visiting successively Hotel Dieu, la Charité, la Pitié, &c., going from one master to another, discussing all the opinions, ancient and modern, seeing all the methods, and preparing himself to shed a new lustre upon American medicine.

But it was chiefly at the unrivalled *clinique* of Dupuytren that he passed most of his "walking the hospital" time. Who has seen the Autocrat of Hotel Dieu, in green coat and white apron, treading with measured steps at the head of his crowded class, through the vast *salles* of his surgical empire, with his redoubtable looks and regal dignity, putting bluntly a few questions to each patient as he passes on, so pertinent, as to draw forth as prompt a response, without being fascinated by the power and omnipotence of his strong mind? But it was not for this ascendancy and domination that Dr. LUZENBERG admired the "Chirurgien en Chef;" on the contrary, no one condemned more than he did his stern and despotic severity. It was for his wonderful acumen and diagnostic foresight—his oracular decision based upon scientific deduction, and the admirable forecast with which he modified general methods of practice according to particular individual cases, that he yielded to him the homage due to extraordinary merit. I have often heard him say that he would not give one morning's visit to the Hotel Dieu for one whole year's knowledge that can be got from books. This is a high, but by no means exaggerated estimate.

Besides having been a perfect and finished operator, the Baron Dupuytren possessed a talent for clinical instruction that never was and never can, I

think, be equalled. To have seen him give an apparently superficial glance at a patient, one would have believed the case to be a very simple one, or at all events to possess few points of interest; but arrived in the amphitheatre he would overwhelm you with a crowd of interesting circumstances, discuss them with his peculiar method and spirit of order, and expose the perilous intricacies of the case with as much precision and perspicuity as if he had weighed and elaborated them in the silence of his study. So, likewise, when he performed an operation, he showed after it was over, and the patient removed, how thoroughly he had comprehended its diagnostic problem and deliberated before proceeding to the *dernier resort*, although for all this but a few moments were required. In addition to these brilliant qualities, "the first surgeon of the King" possessed what was still more important in a clinical lecturer, an inexhaustible fund of practical reflections of the highest interest, which, a talent for *extempore* speaking, and a command of words, resulting from his knowledge of the languages, enabled him to impart in a diction so pure and elegant as actually to serve as a lesson in elocution to the students. I shall never forget the satisfaction Dr. LUZENBERG expressed at an incident, which confirmed his opinion of the value and importance of a thorough knowledge of the dead languages to render a physician's preparatory education complete, and to admit him into the great catholic communion and fellowship of scholars throughout all ages and all nations.

It was during one of those unlooked for occur-

rences in the operating amphitheatre, which exemplified all the resources of his genius, that M. Dupuytren addressed himself to a German student who had stepped forward from the first bench, directing him how to assist him. The young man hesitated and replied in latin that he did not understand the French language. Never disconcerted, M. Dupuytren readily explained himself in Latin, and the brilliant operation was soon concluded.

I have thus dwelt upon the splendid qualifications of M. Dupuytren, because he embodied the *beau ideal* of professional eminence, which Dr. LUZENBERG had set up in his own mind for future attainment, in a higher degree than any other of the living surgeons of the day, and presented in his qualities, like as in the statue of Praxiteles, the aggregated excellencies of the partial and subordinate, but highly meritorious worth around him. To this standard of excellence he modelled all his future efforts, and worked up to it unceasingly with a predetermined resolution. Not that it was in the nature of Dr. LUZENBERG, gifted as he was with a lofty, independent and capacious intellect, to seek for and depend upon foreign resources; for his whole life in medicine, as in every thing else, was a practical illustration of the motto, "*nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri:*" but what I wish to be understood as saying is this, that, in his enthusiastic admiration of M. Dupuytren, he contemplated, like an artist, the nearest approximation to the conception of a standard he had previously formed in his own mind, and which he had assigned to himself as a life-work.

After spending five months in Paris, Dr. LUZENBERG proceeded on his travels through Europe, visiting most of the principal cities of Germany, Italy, Prussia, Poland, Holland and the Netherlands, and taking copious notes of the hospitals and every thing pertaining to medical science, which he at one time had some idea of publishing, but incessant demands upon his time and attention afterward prevented him from doing so.

At Goettingen he was much gratified by the attention he received at the hands of the distinguished Langenbeck and Himly, who, it would seem, took special pains to acquaint him with the mode of their university public lectures, which are delivered gratuitously at the respective houses of each professor, (*Auditorii*,) and who, likewise, have their hospitals within their own domicils. The constitution of these seminaries is such as to permit the professor to deliver as many private courses as he pleases, and charge whatever he thinks fit or can get. Hence results a subdivision of the branches unheard of in our home economy, and a competition and rivalry among the professors, which exert a wholesome reaction upon the pupils.

At Cracow he had the satisfaction of meeting with an uncle, who was commander of that portion of the Austrian army, stationed in that neighborhood, and who furnished him with a special passport for visiting the wonderful salt mines of Wieliczka.

His range of investigation was not limited to the prosecution of the different branches of medical and chirurgical science, or to attendance at the hos-

pitals and lectures of the most renowned teachers in the world, but to the best acquisitions in medicine he added the study of mineralogy, zoology, botany and the fine arts; so that when he returned home he brought with him a choice collection of rare and precious specimens and subsidies in every department of knowledge and art.

Thus freighted with an intellectual opulence worthy of the city to which it was consigned—a city, like his mind, teeming with the spontaneous growth of its own fertile soil, as well as the wealth of congregated argosies, Dr. LUZENBERG steered his course once more for New Orleans and arrived here in the winter of 1834.

As soon as it was known that he had resumed his business, patients, speaking the languages of all nations flocked to him, and he was soon engaged in an extensive and lucrative practice. Such was the general confidence reposed in his skill, that he was frequently sent for from great distances to perform important operations, or to meet consultations; indeed this latter mode of medical practice formed for the last ten years a large share of his daily avocations. On these occasions his conduct was regulated by the nicest sense of professional etiquette, and the established rules of medical ethics. He was scrupulously careful to say nothing in the presence of the patient or friends, which could even in an indirect manner weaken their confidence in the medical attendant. On the contrary, if the physician was a young man of merit or character, he did all in his power to raise him in the estimation of those who employed him.

Upon all occasions he was ready to confer freely with his professional brethren on any subject respecting which they desired his advice or counsel, whether in special relation to themselves and their affairs, or to those under their treatment. Prodigious of his knowledge as he was generous with his money, he assisted largely in the education of many who drew freely from the inexhaustible fountain of his instruction, and among the prominent physicians of this city, there are several who owe their position and success to his liberality and bounty.

Recognizing in all its bearings the force of the maxim that "every man is a debtor to his profession," he never compromised its dignity by underselling his services or by competing in the cheapening practice with his younger or less fortunate *confères*. He always graduated his charges according to the circumstances of the patient, and his own valuation of the services he had rendered. Perhaps no contemporary practitioner in the United States ever enjoyed so lucrative a practice or received larger fees for single cases or operations.

To the poor he devoted two hours every day, from 8 to 10 o'clock at his office, and cheerfully gave them of his advice and experience gratuitously. Nor did his charity stop here.* Many are the re-

* The following extract clipped from one of the city papers during the first epidemic visitation of the yellow fever after his return from Europe, was placed in my hands among other documents:—"Dr. LUZENBERG has made a proposition to the mayor to attend gratis all the indigent Germans in the city; for this generous act the Council of the First Municipality tendered him their thanks, and resolved that he be allowed to take for the use of the sick all remedies he may require at the drug stores of the individuals selected by the mayor. Such praiseworthy conduct on the part of an eminent, and at all times busily employed physician, is highly ennobling, and cannot be lightly overlooked by our citizens.

"In the Council, on motion of Mr. Preval, the following resolution was adopted—

spectable families in this city, whose slender circumstances scarcely enabled them to live decently apart from his bounty, and who are now mourning for him as their greatest friend, not only in whatever related to their health, but also to their pecuniary well-being. Gratitude, however, was not the object which prompted his disinterested kindness; for this was seldom manifested toward him during life. He did good for the gratification and reward which every virtuous action carries with it, and could those persons who form their opinions from appearances or hearsay, have been admitted behind the scenes into a nearer and truer view of his real character, they would, instead of doing him more injustice than they have already done, acknowledge that he was possessed of the kindest and softest emotions of which human nature is susceptible. Many instances might be related, did they not infringe upon the sanctity of professional confidence of his warmest sympathy with the affliction of others; and of the tenderness he evinced for the suffering of such as were compelled by the force of circumstances to submit to his unyielding knife. The consciousness of the benefit which would result, enabled him on these trying occasions to steel his sensibilities into apparent apathy or indifference.

Such were the principles and feelings—thus exalted were the ends, the aims, and the objects,

"Resolved, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint immediately a sufficient number of respectable citizens in each ward of the First Municipality, who will be invited by the Mayor to visit the indigent sick persons in their respective wards, and authorised in case of absolute necessity to draw on the city treasury to procure attendants to said indigent persons, and provide for their indispensable wants, as the doctor will prescribe."

which actuated and guided Dr. LUZENBERG through the whole of his professional curriculum. Active and operative in his character, he was unable to restrain from practical application the speculations of his ardent and energetic mind, but was continually devising new schemes for enlarging the sphere of his usefulness, and benefiting the community by every means in his power.

Before one year had expired after his return from Europe, he built his present hospital, the Franklin Infirmary, situated on the "*Champs Elysées*" road, so that those whose circumstances prevented them from receiving his advice at their dwellings, might, for a comparatively small *per diem* amount, share equally with the more opulent the benefit of his skill and experience. It was almost as easy, once the visit made, for one possessed of his quick and perspicacious insight into the causation and nature of disease as well as powers of rapid analysis, to prescribe for fifty patients, when congregated together, as for one. As he foresaw, the sick and the suffering gathered soon in considerable numbers at his Infirmary, and I am informed by Dr. J. H. Lewis, who was the first physician associated with him in this enterprise, that, such was Dr. LUZENBERG's popularity at this period, there were seldom less than from eighty to a hundred patients at any one time during his residence at the hospital. To this gentleman I am indebted for much information communicated to me orally respecting Dr. LUZENBERG, with whom he was always on the most intimate and friendly terms; some of which, relating to the most important oper-

ations, he performed, I will now proceed to relate—

As I have already stated, long before his visit to Europe, Dr. LUZENBERG had reaped in the vast field of the Charity Hospital a stock of practical knowledge and experience in the treatment of surgical cases, which had already established his fame as an operator of the first order. There remained but few of the recognised procedures of chirurgical art which he had not mastered. An opportunity offered soon after his return to New Orleans for the further display of his surgical attainments.

It was in the case of an elderly man suffering with a cancer of the parotid gland, which was much enlarged, as may be seen by a painting taken before the operation. The risk and danger attendant upon such a perfect extirpation of this gland, as to preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the disease, is so well known to the profession, that it would be supererogatory in me to point them out. Suffice it to say that the operation was performed in so thorough a manner, that the disease never returned, and the man enjoyed good health for many years afterward.

The following account is translated from the "*Gazette Médicale de Paris*," of the September following—

"M. Jobert reported a case of complete extirpation of the parotid gland, which was transmitted to the Academy by C. A. LUZENBERG, M. D., of New Orleans, La.

"A man, sixty-two years of age, had been affected for twenty years with an enlargement of

the parotid gland. About six years prior to this time it began to increase rapidly, and soon acquired the size of a hen's egg; extensive ulceration attacked the summits of the tumor, from which a thin ichorous pus was discharged, and acute lancinating pains were experienced in the diseased parts; in a word, it manifested all the usual symptoms of a cancerous affection.

"Dr. LUZENBERG resolved to extirpate this tumor, and commenced by passing beneath the primitive carotid artery a loose temporary ligature; then, after having circumscribed the cancerous mass by two incisions, he detached it from the deep-seated parts, extending the dissection to so great a depth that both the styloid and mastoid apophyses were fully exposed to view. At this stage of the operation, it was easy to see that the entire parotid gland had degenerated into an encephaloid substance. The profuse hemorrhage which supervened towards the close of the operation, rendered it necessary to tighten the ligature which had been cast around the common carotid artery during the first steps of the operation; this promptly arrested the flow of blood.

"M. M. Smith, Lisfranc, and the immortal Beclard, have also reported cases of extirpation of the parotid gland. The case of Dr. LUZENBERG is no less interesting, since he has described with much clearness and accuracy the volume and nature of the parts removed.

"*Resolved*, That we return our thanks to the author, and enrol his name on the list of *Corresponding Members of the Academy of Medicine of Paris*."

This resolution was adopted by the most learned,

impartial and scientific body of *Savans* in Europe, and was the second instance, as far as I know, (Dr. Physick being the first,) of this distinguished honor being conferred upon an American. The particulars, as communicated by Dr. LUZENBERG, are reported in full in the "*Archives Generales de Medécine.*"

The next operation, which may be called the capital of his surgical pillar, was the excision of six inches of the Ileum. This was a case of strangulated hernia in a man, now alive and in good health, treated jointly by Dr. Lewis and Dr. LUZENBERG. Dr. Lewis states that when they cut down to the sac, the intestine was found so completely mortified for the extent of at least half-a-foot, as to slough under the touch.

With his peculiar quick and comprehensive judgment, which enabled him to determine instantly the merits of a procedure, when most men would be still hesitating as to what ought to be done, Dr. LUZENBERG proceeded with the assistance and concurrence of Dr. Lewis to remove all the mortified portion of the gut, and to bring the serous surfaces of the separated ends together by means of stitches, after the manner recommended by Samuel D. Gross, M. D., of Louisville, Ky. The patient was put upon opium treatment, and in thirty-five days the stitches came away and he entirely recovered.

The next triumph in surgery of Dr. LUZENBERG, which I will notice, and which I had the gratification myself of witnessing about two years ago, was the tying of the primitive iliac artery for the cure of an aneurism of the external iliac.

The subject was a mulatto man about eighteen or twenty years of age, who bore the operation well. The ligature came away in twenty-one days; the anastomotic circulation was gradually established; the tumor became absorbed in due time, and the patient is now well and hearty.

It would swell the pages of this memoir to an unnecessary extent were I to detail all those multiplied and varied achievements of his knife, which proved a surgical genius not only in expertness of execution, but in the invention of modes of operation. For instance, I have witnessed since my residence in this city another successful extirpation of a sarcomatous parotid, so deeply seated and attached that it was necessary to shave the styloid and mastoid processes of the temporal bone, and ligature the common carotid. Again, I have assisted him in unlocking the jaws and unloosing the tongue, with his scalpel, of a gentleman from Texas, whose mouth was a perfect deformity and firmly closed up, from the bad treatment of salivation. These are but instances, I say, of the numerous operative procedures, the enumeration of which to be complete would fill a volume. There is one class of operations, however, in which Dr. LUZENBERG took such particular interest, that I must add a word or two on the subject; and that was, couching for the cataract. Whether it was that he possessed a peculiar tact in the use of the needle, or that he exercised a rare faculty of prognosis in the cases he undertook, it is certain he seldom or never failed in producing, if not a complete, at least a partial restoration of vision. Many are

the once blind in this city who owe to him the recovery of their visual powers after years of obscurity. There is one case in particular, which was published in the journals of the day, of an individual, who, after a total eclipse of light for eight years, caused by cataract, was in the space of one minute repossessed of the full enjoyment of a sense, the loss of which is in itself more dreadful than any misfortune that can befall humanity. From all I have seen and gathered, I am disposed to believe that the operation of couching for the cure of cataract was Dr. LUZENBERG's *forte*, and that he took special satisfaction in performing it on account of the rapidly brilliant result, which comported with his ardent and enthusiastic disposition.

No sooner was his Infirmary established on a permanent basis, than Dr. LUZENBERG turned to the accomplishing of his cherished idea of instituting a Medical School in this city. As he was at this period extensively known and appreciated, not only by the members of his own profession, but also by all who cultivated science in general, and enjoying as he likewise did the friendship of the Governor of the State, he had no difficulty at first in carrying out his plans. His colleagues in this enterprise entered upon the preliminary arrangement with similar views no doubt entertained simultaneously with his own, and from their combined exertions and influence arose the Medical College of Louisiana.

Dr. LUZENBERG was chosen Dean and the first session opened with a class of sixteen matriculated students. The lectures were delivered in the

State-house on Canal street, and the anatomical demonstrations at the Charity Hospital. The chair of anatomy was filled *ad interim*, as well as that of which he was Professor, (Surgery) at the same time, by Dr. LUZENBERG, and, as I am told, with his well known ability and accustomed zeal.*

* The following circular, which was printed and dispersed throughout the country, gives an authentic account of the condition and prospects of the College at the time :

C I R C U L A R .

The Faculty of the Medical College of Louisiana respectfully ask the attention of the Medical Profession, and of the friends of science in general, to the conditions and prospects of the Institution under their charge.

The College was organized in the autumn of 1834 ; a full course of lectures was given during the past winter, and at the last session of the Legislature, a Charter was conferred on it with the usual powers and privileges of similar institutions.

Since the termination of the course of lectures, the Faculty have given unremitting attention to the interests of the College, and have considerably augmented its means of usefulness. But aware that, whatever may be their own zeal and industry, the success of their enterprise is mainly dependant on the countenance it may receive from the enlightened and patriotic portion of their fellow-citizens, particularly from those of the Medical profession—the Faculty are desirous to obtain the attention of the community to the advantages offered by their Institution to medical students in this section of our country.

The College will be in possession, at the commencement of the next session, of adequate apparatus for the illustration of chemistry and the collateral sciences. Ample means for the study of anatomy, will be furnished without trouble to the student, and without violation of the sacred feelings, or even prejudices of society.

When it is recollected that one-third of the population of New Orleans, during the winter season, is composed of strangers, many of whom from choice or necessity, resort in sickness to the several well-conducted hospitals in this city, it must be apparent that the Faculty are in possession of unsurpassed means for rendering their course of instruction thoroughly demonstrative. To avail themselves of these privileges, it has been arranged that a large portion of the lectures from the

Judging from what I have seen and heard in conversation, debate and argument, Dr. LUZENBERG must have been a superior lecturer; for on all occasions he exhibited great powers of reasoning, joined to the charm of a fluent and energetic elocution. In his various discussions before his society he was remarkable for great copiousness of language, and that delicate tact which is appositely resorted to by men of varied learning and distinguished social relations in keeping up the interest of their hearers.

practical chairs, shall be clinical, and disease and treatment taught at the bed-side of the patient.

The number of surgical cases in this city is uncommonly great, and nearly every operation in the science will be performed before the class on the living subject.

The course of pathology and physiology will, in like manner, be accompanied by demonstration and experiment.

The Faculty would particularly urge the opinion (in which it is believed they will be sustained by the experience of physicians) that the diseases of the south-western section of the United States, are in many instances so modified by climate, that they can neither be well taught by those who have not seen them, nor well studied by those who have not an opportunity of witnessing their peculiarities.

Though it is perhaps unnecessary in this part of the Union to offer pecuniary motives, yet, to do away an erroneous impression, it may not be superfluous to state, that upon a fair calculation of all the expenses of attending remote institutions, a considerable balance will be found in favor of the College in this city. To render the school accessible to those in indigent circumstances, it is provided by the by-laws, that twenty students shall be admitted gratis, upon evidence of necessitous circumstances, and adequate literary and moral qualification!

The Faculty have only further to state, that their best exertions will be given to render the course of instruction in the Medical College of Louisiana, both ample and thorough; and believing, as they do, that the success of this Institution will be eminently useful and honorable to this section of our country, they appeal with confidence to the patriotism of their fellow-citizens for countenance and support.

CHAS. A. LUZENBERG, M. D., Dean.

New Orleans, Aug., 1835.

He did not habitually, however, make any such effort in his conversation, which was generally rather too didactic, but this was always excusable from the fact that he was constantly imparting positive information, and pouring out knowledge from his abundant stores.

For reasons which it does not comport with my sense of propriety to discuss in this memoir, but which, however, affected not character, Dr. LUZENBERG saw fit to withdraw from his chair in the college, and forever after eschewed the society of his associates. Concerning the events which transpired at and since that time, the public are sufficiently informed, and it is not necessary that I should recur to them further than to justify what I have already said respecting the bitter persecution he had to contend against. Suffice it to state, by way of a closing scene, and to cap the climax of this medical inquisition, Dr. LUZENBERG, was virtually expelled from membership of the Physico-Medical Society for alleged immoral and unprofessional conduct, as was publicly announced, I am told, in the daily papers. A suit, also, was got up against him in the Criminal Court for *mal praxis*, in the person of an unfortunate individual, who became crippled in consequence of not submitting either to an amputation, or afterward to the necessary restraint for the cure of a compound, comminuted fracture of the leg, with dislocation of the ankle joint.

That this man was instigated to this proceeding, and sustained therein by enemies of Dr. LUZENBERG is generally believed by those acquainted with what transpired in the testimony, and I regret that

the truth compels me to add that some of his professional brethren inculpated him in their evidence very severely. The affair was litigated with much acrimony, and finally carried up to the Supreme Court of the State, where Dr. LUZENBERG was at last triumphantly acquitted.

During these exasperating circumstances, Dr. LUZENBERG bore himself, as all testify, with becoming forbearance and dignity. Nevertheless it can readily be conceived how galling it must have been to one, moving as he did in the first circles of intellect and fashion, to hear his name bandied about in so unceremonious a manner. Speaking once of this trial, (*from which he dated the commencement of his malady,*) during the earlier part of his last sickness, on the occasion of my applying to him for advice respecting some slanderous reports concerning myself, he cautioned me against allowing myself to be worried by the jealous machinations of the idle and envious, but to leave the matter to be set aside by time and that resilience which belongs to truth, and is always developed by any thing like injustice. Never obtruding his own grievances before his friends, he then brought up his own case as an example, and acquainted me for the first time with the particulars of a persecution, which would have broken down the energies of any other man, and at one time almost made him resolve to leave the city. Dr. LUZENBERG, however, had solved too well the problem of this life to permit a revulsion of feeling, incidental to the discovery of the false estimate his confiding nature had put upon human friendship, to hurry him away from the scenes of

his glory, as of his trial, into voluntary exile. Chastened but not crushed, he acted a nobler part—he remained, endured, and conquered.

Untiring in his devotion to every subject connected with his profession, as well as to the medical institutions of the State, and ever active in alleviating the sufferings of humanity, we find him next taking a deep interest in the regulation and internal management of the Charity Hospital, of which he was appointed one of the Administrators by the Legislature. That some attempt was made to wrest this honorary appointment from him is manifest from the perusal of another extract from one of the daily papers, as inserted in a note below.* So far however from the bias of the medical mind prevailing against him, we find Dr. LUZENBERG not only sustained in this post by the Legislature, but elected Vice President by the Administration, (virtually President, the Governor being ex-officio nominally so,) which office he continued to fill with zeal and fidelity during the remainder of his life.

It would have been an impossibility for a thoughtful and energetic man like Dr. LUZENBERG, who had consecrated to learning the passion of his youth and the strength of his manhood, and had made even the portion of his life when he travelled a period of more diligent application; now, when his feelings had become regulated by the discipline of

* "CHARITY HOSPITAL.—We are happy to see that Dr. LUZENBERG has been confirmed as one of the Administrators of the Charity Hospital, notwithstanding the herculean efforts made by sundry pigmies to prevent it. It must be peculiarly vexing to certain splenetic and envious gentlemen, to find that so able a physician as the Doctor, pursues the even tenor of his way regardless of their opposition, and earning the esteem of all good men."

philosophy, and his opinions mellowed by meditation and experience, to abstain, so long as the welfare of humanity was the object of his pursuits, from turning to practical purposes the results of his intellectual acquirements, and thus contributing to the interest nearest to his heart.

The repeated recurrence of yellow fever in New Orleans, and the confused and imperfect accounts published concerning a disease of which so little positive knowledge was as yet established, determined him to make its investigation the subject of a publication, which should be as perfect as the most diligent application of the residue of his natural allotment of life could make it.

Accordingly he set himself to work collecting materials for this object, and I believe there exists no book in any of the languages, having the most remote bearing on yellow fever, which he did not procure. His plan was to have large and accurate plates of every phasis of the disease, somewhat after the manner of M. Pariset, and he had already caused to be painted in oil, as large as life, the most accurate delineations of the *facies*, and other morbid appearances, which are so readily recognized as pathognomic of yellow fever.

His writings and pathological researches on the subject had reached a voluminous extent at the time of his disease, but still it was far from being complete, nor did he contemplate publishing the work until he had established every fact and assertion to his satisfaction. With his peculiar predilection for the Latin language the manuscript is in that tongue,

but whether he intended to publish it in such classic form is not known to any one.*

Never satisfied unless he was incessantly occupied in prosecuting measures which appeared to him best fitted to promote the cultivation of those branches of human knowledge, so necessary for the intellectual improvement of society as well as the progression of his profession in the collateral sciences, we find him in 1839 becoming the Founder of the "Society of Natural History and the Sciences," which was liberally endowed by the Legislature with full power to create professorships and confer degrees. To the advancement of this Institution, of which he was elected forthwith President,† he devoted every hour that he could spare from other avocations, or snatch from the time allotted to sleep; and to forward the great objects in view, he was always ready to sacrifice the claims of worldly prudence and self-interest. The rich collection of specimens in natural history and the natural sciences which he has left behind him, attests his munificence and disinterested exertions in the cause of education.

Believing in the principle of association, so characteristic of our Republic, and so potent an agent in the diffusion, as well as in the augmentation of

* Since the above was written, I have been informed by Dr. J. F. Beugnot, of his determination of going to Paris in the course of the current year, for the express purpose of withdrawing from professional engagements, and with the view of devoting himself to the prosecution and publication of a work on Yellow Fever, which shall embody all that Dr. LUZENBERG has already written. We know of no one better qualified to develop Dr. LUZENBERG's views, and rejoice in the prospect of soon seeing a worthy monument to our departed President, which, through the acknowledged skill of the author, shall be rendered "perennius ære."

† OFFICERS.—C. A. LUZENBERG, President; FELIX GARCIA, Vice President; GEO. T. DUNBAR, S. D. M'NEIL, Secretaries.

knowledge, Dr. LUZENBERG succeeded at last in consummating a long projected scheme for uniting his medical friends of the city into a society for the purpose of mutual improvement and the promotion of medical science.

On the 1st April, 1843, a legislative act was passed incorporating our society under the title of the "Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society," and at its first meeting Dr. LUZENBERG was unanimously chosen President. With what assiduity and zeal he fulfilled the duties of this station, to the day of his decease, your resolutions already testify. I can only add that more exalted motives to action never influenced any man in his associate relations, and I feel confident that if our President had been spared, much good would have resulted to the State, as well as to the cause of science from the measures he contemplated for our combined efforts and labors toward the just and honorable maintenance and advancement of legitimate medicine. I say, had he been spared—for now, alas! rent as is the veil of our Medical Fabric by the convulsion caused from the fall of its Architect, there is little hope, while dissention and discord prevail among the ranks of the profession, that the mantle can, like Elijah's, descend upon the shoulders of any one of us, whose individual effort and influence will be sufficient to sustain, as our lost President often did, the dying embers of zeal among the discouraged members.

In spite of the never-ending bickerings and discouragements he met with, his untiring hope always prompted him to look forward to the period,

which must sooner or later come, when the bitterness of partizan-feeling having subsided, the whole profession will join as brothers in the great work of advancing the scientific and professional character of our city. His voice and example call on us from the tomb to cherish and support the established institutions of learning in our State. His son was among the first who enrolled his name among the pupils of the new University, and his private cabinet of natural history was *in limine* placed at the disposal of the President.

If now we are to be dissolved as a society, let us individually continue to exert the patriotism of him we lament, by burying the past, at least in the walks of literature and science, and by contributing to the cause of education, thus substantially to advance the cherished business of our lives. We must each put forth our hands and sustain a standard, beneath which, in the eloquent language of the *Organ** of the New York Academy: "the loyal disciples of medicine can rally." Our country calls, and who would be recreant? She bids us raise the Hippocratic shield, which truth and nature have ever opposed against the delusions of the times, and thus preserve the honor of the profession "uncontaminated by the abracadabra and the specious sophistries which perplex its votaries and sully the light of demonstrative truth."

In addition to his other honors and offices, Dr. LUZENBERG was appointed by the United States Government, in 1843, Physician to the Marine Hospital. As there was no government hospital at the

* John W. Francis, M. D., of New York.

time, he appropriated his own for the mariners, which was admirably adapted to the purpose—standing as it does amidst shady walks, and embowered by all the luxuriant foliage and flowers of a Southern clime, so grateful to the sea-beaten mariner.

To promote further the comfort and contribute to the amusement of the worthy tars, Dr. LUZENBERG collected many living specimens of natural history in these gardens, such as bears, pelicans, reptiles, and birds of various kinds, and also caused to be painted in fresco on the walls, the different ensigns and signals of every nation in the world.

While thus ameliorating the desolate condition of the unfortunate, he did not neglect the more important internal organization of the Hospital. He secured in Dr. J. W. Mueller, as resident physician, one who was admirably qualified in every respect for so responsible a situation; and the faithfulness with which he discharged his duties is acknowledged by every seaman, without exception, who fell under his care. In spite, however, of all these humane measures to do his duty by the sick, they were ordered from under his care in 1845, much to his disappointment and regret; because, he happened not to think alike in politics with the dominant party at Washington. Here are his own words on this occasion, written at the closing of the Record Book—at once characteristic of the man and expletive of his political opinions.

“ On the 22d May, 1845, it pleased the powers *pro tempore* to transfer the sick seamen to the hands of others.

"Alas! political proscription is the war-cry of the dominant faction which now rules the destinies of the Republic. The sick and the dying are not exempt from the fangs of the hydra; all, all must be hurled from office who dare to exercise the vaunted right of freemen.

"The physician and surgeon now fitted for United States Hospital duties must wear the livery of Democracy, *quasi*, without which his exertions, however assiduous and honest, are despised. O! tempora! O! mores!

C. A. LUZENBERG, M. D.,

Late Physician and Surgeon of the U. S. Marine Hospital, and Physician and friend of Henry Clay."

His hospital was not destined, however, to remain long unoccupied. With that invaluable sagacity which belongs to superior intellects, Dr. LUZENBERG foresaw at the commencement of hostilities with Mexico, that the exposure to a sickly clime and the rigors of a camp-life, to which they were so unaccustomed, would tell severely upon the health of our brave volunteers, and that numbers would in all probability be sent back for medical treatment to this the nearest city to the seat of war.

Accordingly he turned his attention to the enlargement of his hospital, and in a short time had every accommodation provided for six hundred men, which number was not at any one time exceeded. So perfect and complete was the organization of this establishment that the utmost order and discipline was preserved during the whole

period of its occupancy by the soldiers, until two months after his decease, when peace was declared. The medical staff consisted of Dr. Mueller, the resident physician, Dr. LUZENBERG, Dr. McCormick, Dr. Rhodes and myself, and the visit was made immediately after the *réveillée*. Such cases as required seeing again were noted, and visited in the evening by Drs. LUZENBERG and Mueller.

In the midst of the engrossing duties in which this immense enterprise involved him, Dr. LUZENBERG's health began to fail suddenly. Although for a considerable time previously he had experienced the most undoubted symptoms of cardiac disease, still he did not suffer to any noticable degree until about the beginning of the spring of 1848, when actual pain in the præcordial region, together with obstinate and readily excited paroxysms of palpitation and dyspnœa, totally incapacitated him from application to any business whatever. The worst fears of his medical friends were now excited, and their diagnosis confirmed with an accuracy, worthy of the school of Corvisart, by M. Rouanet from France, recently arrived in the city, who pointed out the precise location and character of the disease, which, as will be seen, was verified by the autopsy. Without any expectation of deriving benefit from travelling or other means, but solely with the view of escaping from the unavoidable molestations incidental to his numerous business relations, Dr. LUZENBERG, after experiencing some degree of alleviation from the quiet of a sea-shore residence, determined at the first approach of

summer to sequester himself at the red sulphur springs of Virginia. By the time he reached Cincinnati, however, his malady had made such inroads upon his constitution that he could proceed no further, and here he lingered until the 15th July, 1848.

The first information received here of his decease was derived from the following notice, extracted from the "Cincinnati Commercial" of the 17th July, and published in one of our daily journals:

"Dr. LUZENBERG, of New Orleans, died at the Broadway Hotel in this city, at about 11 o'clock on Saturday night. The death of this eminent physician will cast a gloom wherever it is made known, and particularly in the city where in times of pestilence he has been looked up to by the people of all classes and all nations, as almost an only earthly hope. The Doctor had been confined to his bed for several weeks, and passed away from earth quietly, consciously, and prepared, leaving many, although among strangers, to bedew his pillow with tears. A post mortem examination was had yesterday morning, and his disease was found to be ossification of the heart. His body is to be taken on board the mail boat this morning, and hence to Madison, where the Western World awaits its arrival to carry it to New Orleans."

His remains arrived here on the 27th July, and the following *post mortem* report, together with the diseased organ, preserved in spirits, was furnished, which I opened in the presence of Drs. Beugnot, DeValletti and Mercier.

"*Autopsy of Dr. Luzenberg, ten hours after Death.*—Upon opening the chest, we found an effusion amounting to at least 50 ozs. compressing the right lung so as to render it impervious to air, except a small portion near the apex: firm adhesions, as of long standing, to the diaphragm, throughout the whole base of the lung, Left lung healthy. Heart enlarged enormously, with dilatation of the right auricle. Valves all healthy with the exception of the mitral, which was obliterated for at least three-fifths of its extent by ossific deposition. No examination made of other organs.

(Signed.)

A. S. DANDRIGE,
J. S. SHOTURL.

Cincinnati, July 16, 1848.

Upon more minute examination of the supposed *osseous* induration of the valve, we discovered an agglomeration of calcareous granules, which formed a concretion resembling an almond in shape and size, and possessing, like vesical calculi, no evidence of vitality whatever, but consisting simply of the phosphate of lime.

The severity of the symptoms and sufferings are readily accounted for from the complication of this enormous valvular degeneration with both hypertrophy and dilatation—a combination of diseases the most deplorable and irremediable to which humanity is subject.

It is a source of much satisfaction to know that Dr. LUZENBERG was prepared for his departure from this transitory state, so full of disappointment, to another more lasting and more replete with elevated objects of attainment, than the highest aim of professional ambition could ever hope to reach.

The creed of his fathers was Romish, and for many years his interest in the church rested simply in externals. Deeply read in theology, however, he did not long rest in this negative condition, once excited in the search of indisputable evidences of the truth. He then dismissed from his mind all predilections for the church in which he was reared, finding it impossible to yield implicitly and blindly to forms and doctrines as fundamental which appeared irreconcilable to his construction of the Bible.

During the two last years of his life he was on terms of the most intimate friendship with the Rev. F. L. Hawks, who was unremitting in his atten-

tion towards him during the earlier period of his last illness, and who served greatly by the aid of his lucid and masterly reasoning to show the insufficiency of his actual views on the most momentous subject which can engage the mind of man.

The obsequies were performed on the 28th July, the day after the arrival of his remains at his residence, by the Rev. Mr. Preston of Annunciation Church, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Ozanne, temporary minister of Christ Church; and the large concourse of sympathising friends and acquaintances, who attended and followed on foot to his last resting place in the Protestant Cemetery, showed the high and general estimation in which he was held. The Philharmonic Society, of which he was President, appeared in a body as the procession was moving off and accompanied it, unexpectedly to every one, with strains of the most appropriate and solemn music. But the most affecting part of the ceremony was to witness the orphan children of the Protestant Female Orphan Asylum, to which he had been a number of years the physician, following in the wake, uniformed in the habiliments of mourning. Truly touching was it to observe this testimonial of the fatherless and afflicted to their departed benefactor, which spoke more eloquently than the best couched eulogy.

During the time occupied in closing up the tomb, appropriate addresses were made to suit the mixed multitude assembled, in the French, English and German tongue.

In French, after speaking of his open-handed and overflowing benevolence, which made his life

a series of benefactions, Dr. De Valletti concluded with reminding us of the remarkable trait in the character of the deceased, which seemed to make him live alone for the gratification of that organ, as important in the moral as in the physical life of man: "his heart it was," said he, "which gave to life a value for him—his heart it was, which killed him."

Mr. Hennen, Sr., spoke most feelingly of the irreparable loss his family and friends had sustained. He commended the private character of the deceased which, he said, was as pure as his professional character was illustrious. He then dwelt upon his qualities as a physician, untiring in good works, and ended with the expression of a fervent hope that Providence would raise up many more LUZENBERGS to dispense the blessings of health and comfort to the sufferings of the community.

In German, Dr. Mueller expatiated on his love to his brethren of the father-land, his readiness to assist them on all occasions with his purse as well as with his skill. He spoke, from his knowledge of his private character, of his never-ending charities. Uncles, aunts, and remotest connexions would bless his memory for acts, of which he never wished the world to hear, and the only reward for which he looked was the gratification of his own generous heart. "Recollect, Germans," said he in closing, "that heart, which made him a *man*, was a German heart!"

